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13 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer for NESA

FROM: [redacted]
Chief, Iran-Iraq Branch, PG/NESA

SUBJECT: Iranian and Nicaraguan Relations

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Iran's anti-Americanism and its ideological attachment to "the oppressed" has drawn it towards a closer association with Nicaragua. Economic and diplomatic ties have increased but the Iran-Iraq war has caused some problems in the relationship.

- Iran began to increase its contacts with Nicaragua in early 1982. A number of Iranian and Nicaraguan delegations have been exchanged, the most recent was lead by the Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister who visited Tehran this week. Other major contacts include:
 - February 1982: Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister meets senior Nicaraguan government officials in Managua.
 - December 1982: Nicaraguan Minister of Foreign Trade meets senior Iranian officials in Tehran.
 - January 1983: Iranian Foreign Minister meets senior Nicaraguan officials in Managua.
- In December 1982 an agreement was reached to expand economic relations. Iran agreed to import sugar and negotiate trade in coffee, timber, spices, and meat.

NESA M 83-1011⁵C

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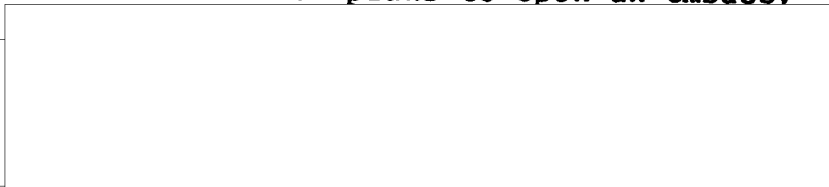
-- A \$30 million oil deal was concluded in the same month. Terms were very favorable for Nicaragua.

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-- In January 1983 Iran announced plans to open an embassy in Managua.

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--  both sides continue expressing support for each other's policies. Plans expand economic ties also continue.

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